

BET Trustee Role Description

Background

Big Education Trust is seeking to appoint three additional Trustees to its Board to help shape the future strategy, growth and direction of the Trust.

Big Education is a multi-academy trust with a mission - based in the belief that school should be expansive and broad, rather than the narrowly exam-focused experience most students currently have. There is a commitment to creating a 'big' education, through the development of the head, heart and hand, in our own schools, and also to work with schools and the wider system to make this a reality for as many children as possible.

Big Education Trust is made up of School 21, School 360 and Surrey Square Primary with a vision for growth for the future. We also run and house a number of significant projects, including a leadership programme (the [Big Leadership Adventure](#)), change projects (www.rethinkingassessment.com) as well as [Voice 21](#), a charity within the group focused on developing oracy skills in young people.

Big Education is a developmental organisation and is growing its core managed services to provide excellent support to the schools and teams.

We are keen to hear from individuals who are interested in being involved in the future development of the Big Education mission. We are looking for a broad range of backgrounds and expertise to join the Board and would encourage anyone who considers that they can add value to the board to apply.

We care deeply as a Trust about inclusive working practices and diverse teams. Our schools serve predominantly black and minority ethnic communities. We are particularly keen to encourage applications from black and minority ethnic communities as a part of this recruitment round to help us with our focus on diversity.

Responsibilities

As a member of the Board of Trustees, you will be responsible for ensuring that the highest standard of corporate governance is maintained across the Trust. The Board has overall responsibility for:

- Agreeing the vision, ethos, values, and objectives for the Trust;
- Agreeing the strategic direction, agreeing the strategic priorities and strategic plan for Big Education;
- Setting Big Education's standards of conduct and values including going beyond standard practice;
- Devising, agreeing an annual review of the scheme of delegation;
- Ensuring sound management and administration of the Trust and its Academies and ensuring that managers are equipped with relevant skills and guidance;
- Ensuring compliance with general legislative, regulatory and statutory requirements;
- Establishing and maintaining a transparent system of prudent and effective internal controls;
- Monitoring the management of the Trust financial, human and other resources;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitoring standards, performance, and the achievements of objectives and ensuring that plans for its Academies are acted upon; ● Assessing and managing risk (including the preparation of a statement on Academies’ risk management, for its annual report and accounts); ● Preparing the Trustees’ Report to form part of the Statutory Accounts of Big Education and for filing in accordance with Companies Act requirements; ● Holding to account the CEO and other relevant Trust staff. <p>To fulfil these functions, we meet regularly as a Board during the year and the Board also delegates some responsibilities to Board Committees. You will be expected to be able to attend the Board meetings (on average 4 a year, plus an annual strategic awayday) and to also be an active member of at least one of the Committees. We also encourage Trustees to visit our schools at least once per year. It is estimated that the time commitment would be on average 10 days a year. This role is unremunerated although reasonable travel expenses can be reimbursed.</p>
Knowledge & skills	<p>There are some areas of particular knowledge to help build on and complement the skills of our existing Board members and these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senior Education leadership, especially primary ● School/academy finance ● Ed Tech development ● Social impact/enterprise leadership and development <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A varied and balanced cross section of skills and experience that will aid and support good decision making at Board level. ● Strategic thinking and planning ● Leadership and change management skills ● Demonstrable experience of building and sustaining relationships with key stakeholders and colleagues at all levels to achieve organisational objectives ● Ability to analyse complex information and get to the heart of an issue ● Proven track record of sound judgement and effective decision making ● Advocacy and influencing skills ● History of impartiality, fairness and the ability to respect confidences ● Track record of commitment to promoting equality and diversity, and understanding and working with diverse voices and approaches
Personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A commitment to the aims and objectives of Big Education and an interest in its work ● Ability to think and work strategically and creatively ● Good listening skills ● Ability to work effectively as part of a team whilst contributing an independent perspective ● Ability to be an effective ambassador and influencer for Big Education ● The ability to seek a mutual understanding and to find consensus ● An ability and willingness to devote the necessary time to the role ● Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of Trusteeship ● Understanding of the respective roles of the Executive and Trustees

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter to linda.stevens@bigeducation.org or contact Linda for any more information.

Closing date for applications is Friday 21 October 2022